THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) The trade figures are compiled on the financial year basis. India's imports during April-December, 1991 amounted to Rs. 34238 crores. The import bills for the previous three years were Rs. 28235 crores for 1988-89, Rs. 35412 crores for 1989-90 and Rs. 43171 crores for 1990-91.

(b) Broadly the canalised imports relate to the import of cereals and cereal preparations, fertilizers, edible oil, nonferrous metals, Paper, paper-board and newsprint, Sugar, Metalliferrous Ores & Metals crap, Iron & Steel, Petroleum and Petroleum products. The import of these items amounted to Rs. 10366 crores during 1988-89, Rs. 13535 crores in 1989-90 and Rs. 17989 crores in 1990-91.

(c) and (d) The question of decanalisation of import of raw materials, etc. is being considered in connection with the new Import-Export Policy to be announced on 1.4.1992.

Restructuring the Foreign Trade Offices under the Ministry of Commerce

48. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any programme to restructure the foreign trade offices under his Ministry;

(b) what are the details of trade offices in foreign countries under his Ministry and the amount of foreign exchange spent on them countrywise; and

(c) whether Government are thinking of restructuring the policy towards the foreign offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (c) Yes, Sir,

(b) Details of trade offices in foreign countries and amount of foreign exchange spent thereon during 90-91 are given in the statement attached.

Statement

	Location (Country)		Name of office	Expenditure incurred during (90-91) in lkh. in FFE
	1		2	3
	New York	U.S.A.	MPEDA	26.53
			Tea Board	45.27
			TDA	45.40
			STC	67.31
	Brussels	Belgium	ITC	128.00
			Tea Board	123.09
	Frankfurt		TDA	53.13
		German	STC	97.33
	Berlin		STC	12.15
	Tokyo	Japan	TDA	71.18
			MMTC	62.52
			MPEDA	40.76
	London	(U.K.)	Tea Board	162.69
			STC	93.86
(Since Closed)	Sydney		Tea Board	23.91
	Melborne	Australia	STC	23.58
(Since closed)	Dubai	UAE	TDA	12.85
	Cairo	Egypt	Tea Board	15.12
(Since closed)	Kuwait		Tea Board	6.32
			STC	8.49
(Since closed)	Harare	Zimbabwe	TDA	10.89
			STC	4.72
			PEC	4.80
	Kualalampur	Malaysia	TDA	7.49
	Hong Kong		STC	42.03
	Jeddah	(S. Arabia)	STC	28.51
	Nairobi	(Kenya)	STC	4.80
			PEC	4.08
	Singapore	City	STC	40.70
	Male	(Maldives)	STC	3.54
	Paris	(France)	STC	52.26
	Moscow	(USSR)	STC	11.61
			PEC	26.46
	Seoul	(S.Korea)	MMTC	38.51
	Amman	(Jordan)	MMTC	15.01
	Bucharest	(Romania)	MMTC	18.71
	Vietnam		PEC	12.36
				1445.97

कृषि-उत्पादों के निर्यात पर प्रतिबन्धों का विरोध

49. **डा० बापू कालदाते** : क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि किसान संगठनों ने कृषि-उत्पादों के निर्यात पर लगाये गये प्रतिबन्धों के विरुद्ध महाराष्ट्र में 500 से अधिक स्थानों पर "रास्ता रोको" आन्दोलन चलाया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार इन प्रतिबन्धों को हटाने का विचार रखती है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में उप मंत्री (श्री सलमान खुर्शीद): (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) से (घ) बहुत अधिक खपत वाली कुछ मदों को छोड़कर कृषि-उत्पादों के निर्यात पर कोई प्रतिबन्ध नहीं है। वास्तव में सरकार कृषि उत्पादों का निर्यात बढ़ाना चाहती है और इसके लिए कई प्रोत्साहन दिए गए है।

Prime Minister's assurance regarding export of non-Basmati Rice

50. SHRI JAGESH DESAI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Prime Minister has assured that Non-Basmati rice will not be exported; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any steps to implement this decision?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED) : (a) and (b) The export of non-basmati rice is subject to a ceiling fixed by the Govt. The ceiling initially fixed for 1991-92 was 10 lakh MTs. It was subsequently reduced to 7 lakh MTs. The Prime Minister had assured that the exports in the current fiscal year would not be allowed to exceed 7 lakh MTs. Action has been taken in accordance with this assurance.

Restrictions on the Import of Foreign Publications

51. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have removed all the restrictions on import of foreign publications in India; and

(b) if so, what are the types of books which Government propose to import for the benefit of the people of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir, Import of foreign editions of books for which editions of authorised Indian reprints are available is not allowed. Likewise, foreign reprints of Indian publications is also not permissible without specific prior approval by the Government. Import of unauthorised reprints of books published abroad is also not allowed.

(b) Import of Educational, Scientific and Technical books is allowed under Open General Licence by the following:—

(i) Universities including deemed Universities and recognised educational and research institutions.

(ii) Public, National and State Libraries.

(iii) Institutions of higher learning.

(iv) Recognised booksellers having a minimum annual sales turnover of Rs. 10 lakhs.

(v) Research & Development units of Industrial Establishments.

(vi) Professionals like Scientists, doctors, engineers University professors, advocates Chartered Accountants etc. for their own professional use provided the c.i.f. value of imports by them shall not exceed Rs. 10,000/- in a financial year.

Educational, Scientific and Technical journals as well as news magazines and news papers are allowed for import under Open General Licence by all persons.

Import Licences are also granted to dealers of books for import of fiction and other books on the basis of 10% of purchase turnover.

Pre-conditions in application of Super 301 Law on India

52. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :
SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 381 given in Rajya Sabha on 26th November, 1991 and state :

(a) whether the Bush Administratior has laid down precondition for taking India off the list of priority countries (identified under the Super 301 of State Law); and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE